

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

2 NOV. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Congo

a) Our best guess is that France is the unnamed foreign power which may have offered financial and diplomatic support to Tshombé. We doubt that top French officials have made any definite commitments, but some lower-ranking officials have hinted to Tshombé aides that French help would be forthcoming. Yesterday the French Foreign Office told our Embassy Tshombé was in Geneva for "apparently valid medical reasons" and that the French Government was "making every effort" to prevent his entering France.

b) Public order is deteriorating in Stanleyville, in the wake of Gizenga's overthrow of the provincial government and his despatch of additional troops toward Katanga.

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2. Argentine navy alerts its units to revolt plot

It fears an early attempt by various Peronista and nationalist elements under a retired Peronista general who led a similar effort last November. While the plotters would hope to exploit rising discontent and current labor difficulties, we believe the armed forces would move swiftly to quell such an uprising.

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3. West German governmental negotiations still under-way

Our Embassy reported Tuesday, however, that public and political confidence in Adenauer's ability to form a government is "collapsing" and that he has appeared to lose his touch in tactical maneuvering. [redacted] if the matter is not settled this week, President Luebke will present his own candidate to Parliament--probably either Erhard or Bundestag President Gerstenmaier. Defense Minister Strauss, "completely occupied" with the problem, has withdrawn an invitation to General Norstad to visit Bonn. [redacted]

4. Finns may consult with Moscow in response to Soviet note

a) The Finnish Foreign Minister, in 50X1 Copenhagen enroute home, said yesterday "if the Soviets want to talk, we'll talk." His number two man, in Helsinki, is going to recommend that a diplomatic delegation only go to Moscow but that the Finns not admit that either they or the Soviets are menaced from the West.
b) Lange of Norway views the note most seriously and feels it could mean the beginning of a takeover in Finland. [redacted]

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5. Laos

Pathet Lao and Kong Le reinforcements have been sent to Xieng Khouang, presumably for stronger moves against the Meos, whose artillery fire apparently continued yesterday despite Vientiane's orders to avoid further combat. Communist delegates at Geneva are using the affair to charge the US with responsibility for the "provocative" actions of Phoumi's forces.

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NOTES

- A. [redacted] rumored plots against Qasim. [redacted] 550X1
[redacted] 50X1
- B. Havana has issued instructions to invite peripatetic Field Marshal Montgomery to visit Havana on 1 January, probably to be part of the cast for the celebration of the Castro regime's third anniversary. [redacted] 50X1
- C. Almost all important Indian newspapers have condemned Soviet nuclear tests. Some have shown sympathy for the US position.
- D. There was a nuclear test yesterday [redacted] at Semipalatinsk, [redacted] 550X2
[redacted] 50X1

WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--1 November 1961

No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

South Vietnam: Communist forces continue their efforts to undermine the Diem government by sabotage and terrorism and to expand the Viet Cong areas of military control in South Vietnam, particularly in the plateau area.

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